

Various Commentaries on the Semantic Meaning of “as often as” ὡςάκις

No legalistic rule is laid down; neither is any fixed date given.¹

As often as we are willing to remember and to proclaim the death of Christ, we will celebrate Communion. No frequency is given, but it is a permanent feast.²

Though there apparently was no prescribed schedule for the observance of the Lord’s Supper (cf. Ignatius *Letter to the Ephesians* 13:1), **whenever** it was celebrated its message of humiliation and subsequent exaltation (Phil. 2:6-11) went forth.³

Whenever believers participate in the Lord’s supper (not just any supper), it is a proclamation of the death of the Lord.⁴

St Paul gives no directions as to *how* frequently the Lord’s Supper is to be celebrated, but he implies that it is to be done frequently, in order to keep the remembrance of the Lord fresh. We may conjecture that at Corinth celebrations had been frequent, and that it was familiarity with them that had led to their being so dishonoured.⁵

The ancient churches celebrated this ordinance every Lord’s day, if not every day when they assembled for worship.⁶

The relative adverb ὡςάκις with ἕαν (indefinite) is variously rendered *as often as* (AV/KJV, NRSV, and BAGD), *whenever* (NJB, NIV), or *every time* (REB).¹⁸⁵ Grimm-Thayer attempt to explicate the indefinite force of the adverb with ἕαν by *as often soever as*, which is strictly correct but archaic.^{186 7}

¹MacDonald, William ; Farstad, Arthur: *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995, S. 1 Co 11:26

²MacArthur, John: *1 Corinthians*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1984, S. 273
cf. confer, compare

³Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:531

⁴Oster, Richard: *1 Corinthians*. Joplin, Mo. : College Press Pub. Co., 1995 (The College Press NIV Commentary), S. 1 Co 11:26

⁵Robertson, Archibald ; Plummer, Alfred: *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians*. New York : C. Scribner's Sons, 1911, S. 249

⁶Henry, Matthew: *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody : Hendrickson, 1996, c1991, S. 1 Co 11:23

BAGD Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, and Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*

¹⁸⁵ BAGD, 585.

Grimm-Thayer Grimm and Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

¹⁸⁶ Grimm-Thayer, 456.

⁷Thiselton, Anthony C.: *The First Epistle to the Corinthians : A Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : W.B. Eerdmans, 2000, S. 886